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General Assembly

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Third Committee
Agenda item 28 (a)
Advancement of women

Gabon: draft resolution

International Widows' Day

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its relevant resolutions, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[2] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[3] the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, and, in particular, the agreed conclusions from the forty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women endorsing the eradication of poverty through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[4] adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995,

Recalling also the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[5] in particular article 3, according to which parties shall take in all fields, in particular in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women,

Affirming that ensuring and promoting the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all women is critical to achieving internationally agreed development goals,

Recognizing that widowed women and their children are particularly vulnerable to discrimination, prejudice and social isolation, HIV/AIDS and poverty,

[1] Resolution 55/2.
[2] Resolution 217 A (III).
[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[4] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.
[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

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Deeply concerned that millions of widows' children face illiteracy, loss of schooling, human trafficking and malnutrition,

Noting that the abuse and suffering of widows affects women worldwide,

Emphasizing the need to give special recognition to the plight of widows and their children, including those living in rural areas,

1. *Decides* with effect from 2011 to observe International Widows' Day on 23 June each year;

2. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, to afford special recognition to the situation of widows and their children;

3. *Invites* all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society, to observe International Widows' Day and to raise awareness of the plight of widows and their children around the world;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take necessary measures for United Nations observance of that Day.